Western States Watershed Study

Photos from the State of New Mexico and Los Angeles District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Websites

U.S. Geological Survey – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
29 January 2007 Joint Headquarters Meeting

USGS science for a changing world

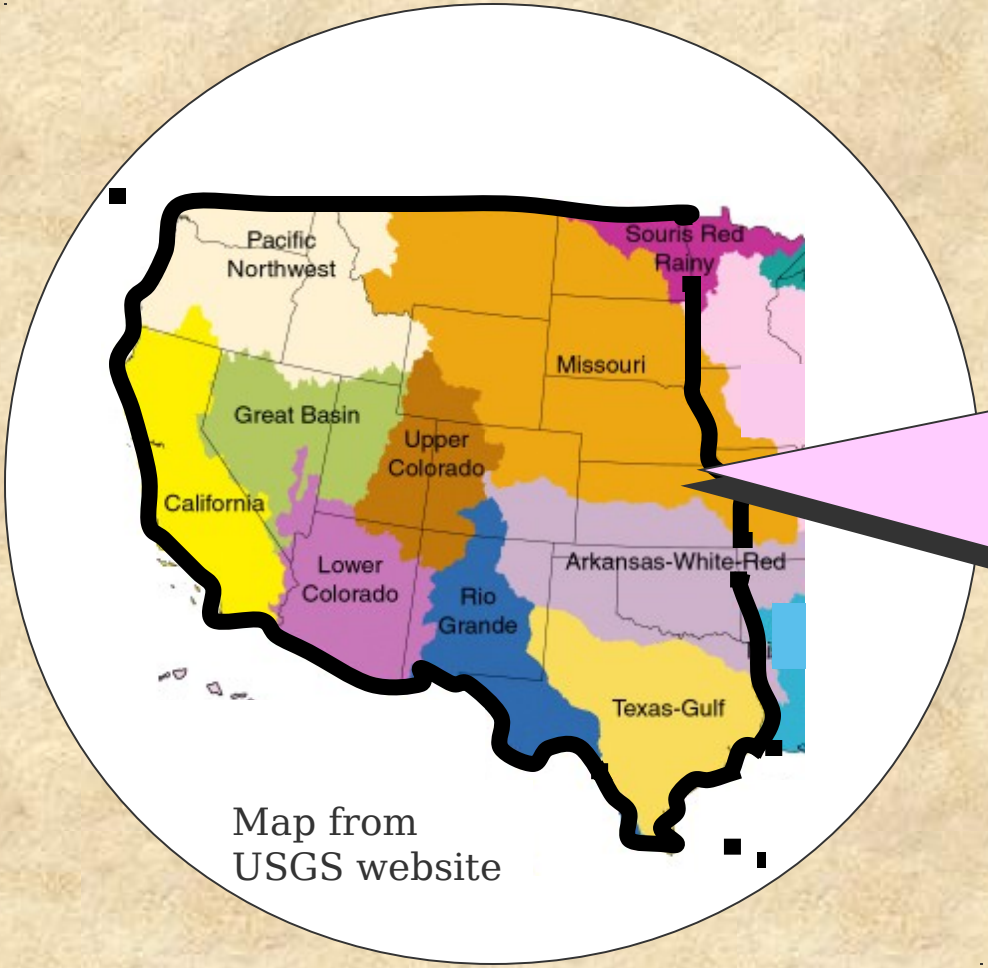
US Army Corps of Engineers ®

Western States Watershed Study

Study Authority

- The FY06 Energy and Appropriations Act (PL 109-103) directs the Secretary to conduct “at full federal expense, comprehensive analyses that examine multi-jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a watershed or regional scale.”

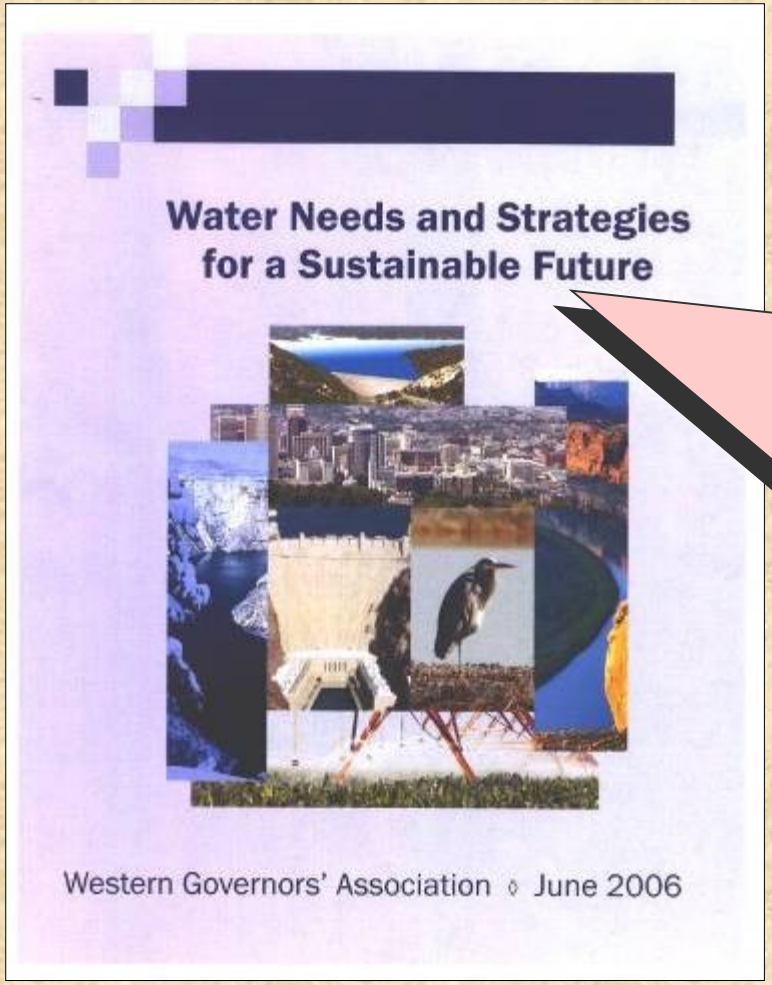
Western States Watershed Study



Map from USGS website

The study scope includes the area consisting of the 17 Western States and will address broad regional water resource issues in a collaborative manner

Western States Watershed Study



The Watershed Study will include collaboratively developed strategic plans to help implement several recommendations contained in the Western Governor's Association (WGA) / Western States Water Council (WSWC) June 2006 Report.

Local Plans

States Plans

Regional Information / Plans

An over-arching guiding principle of the WGA/WSWC June 2006 Report is: "State efforts should….. endeavor to inform, guide, and assist local efforts".

The desired use of regional information would be to support State and local efforts

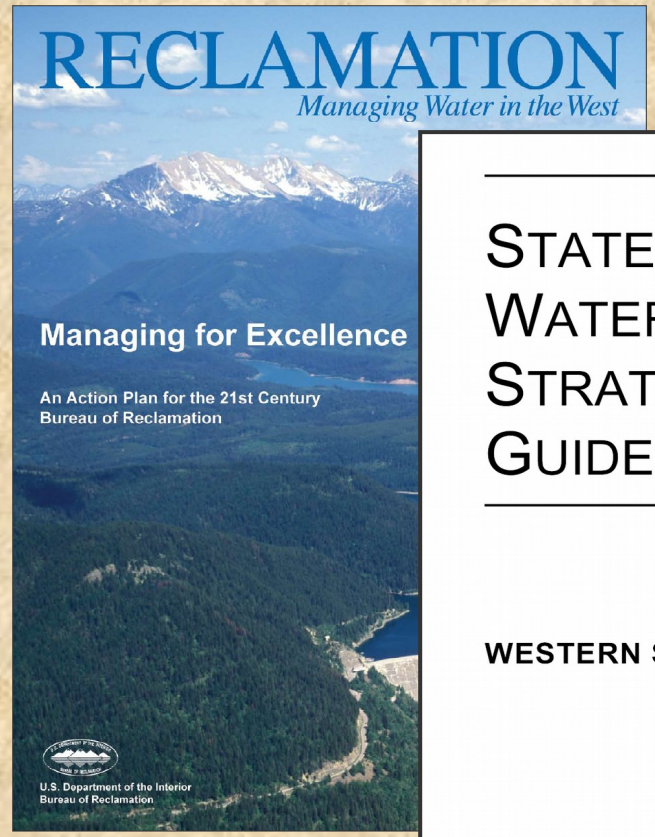
- Pacific NW
- California
- Missouri
- Great Basin
- Upper Colorado
- Rio Grande
- Lower Colorado
- Texas-Gulf
- Ark.-White-Red

Western States Watershed Study

Anticipated Study Topics

- Water Data Collection (USGS led activity)
- Drought, Natural Hazards, and Climate Change Planning and Preparedness
- Watershed Management Tools and Collaborative Planning
- State, Tribal, and Federal Collaboration
- Infrastructure Critical Needs
- Policies and Authorities (others would lead this activity)

Western States Watershed Study



STATE
WATERSHED
STRATEGY
GUIDEBOOK

A Report by the

WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

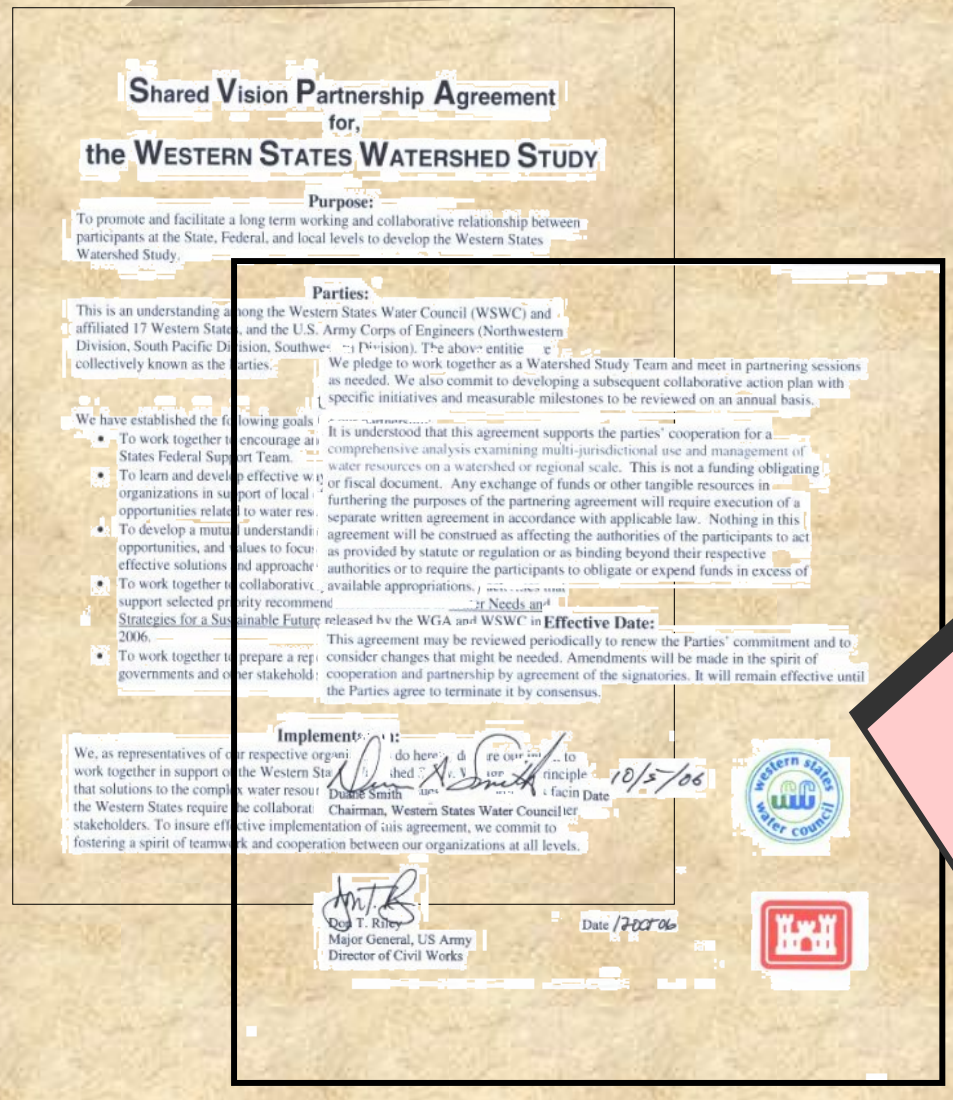
D. Craig Bell
Executive Director

September 1998

Strategy plans will be developed using existing information and collaborative professional judgment

judgment

Western States Watershed Study



Shared Vision Partnership Agreement
for,
the WESTERN STATES WATERSHED STUDY

Purpose:

To promote and facilitate a long term working and collaborative relationship between participants at the State, Federal, and local levels to develop the Western States Watershed Study.

Parties:

This is an understanding among the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and affiliated 17 Western States, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Northwestern Division, South Pacific Division, Southwestern Division). The above entities collectively known as the Parties.

We have established the following goals:

- To work together to encourage and States Federal Support Team.
- To learn and develop effective working organizations in support of local opportunities related to water resources.
- To develop a mutual understanding opportunities, and values to focus effective solutions and approaches
- To work together to collaborative support selected priority recommendations
- To work together to prepare a report governments and other stakeholders

Strategies for a Sustainable Future released by the WGA and WSWC in 2006.

We pledge to work together as a Watershed Study Team and meet in partnering sessions as needed. We also commit to developing a subsequent collaborative action plan with specific initiatives and measurable milestones to be reviewed on an annual basis.

It is understood that this agreement supports the parties' cooperation for a comprehensive analysis examining multi-jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a watershed or regional scale. This is not a funding obligating or fiscal document. Any exchange of funds or other tangible resources in furthering the purposes of the partnering agreement will require execution of a separate written agreement in accordance with applicable law. Nothing in this agreement will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants to act as provided by statute or regulation or as binding beyond their respective authorities or to require the participants to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.

Effective Date:

This agreement may be reviewed periodically to renew the Parties' commitment and to consider changes that might be needed. Amendments will be made in the spirit of cooperation and partnership by agreement of the signatories. It will remain effective until the Parties agree to terminate it by consensus.

Implementation:

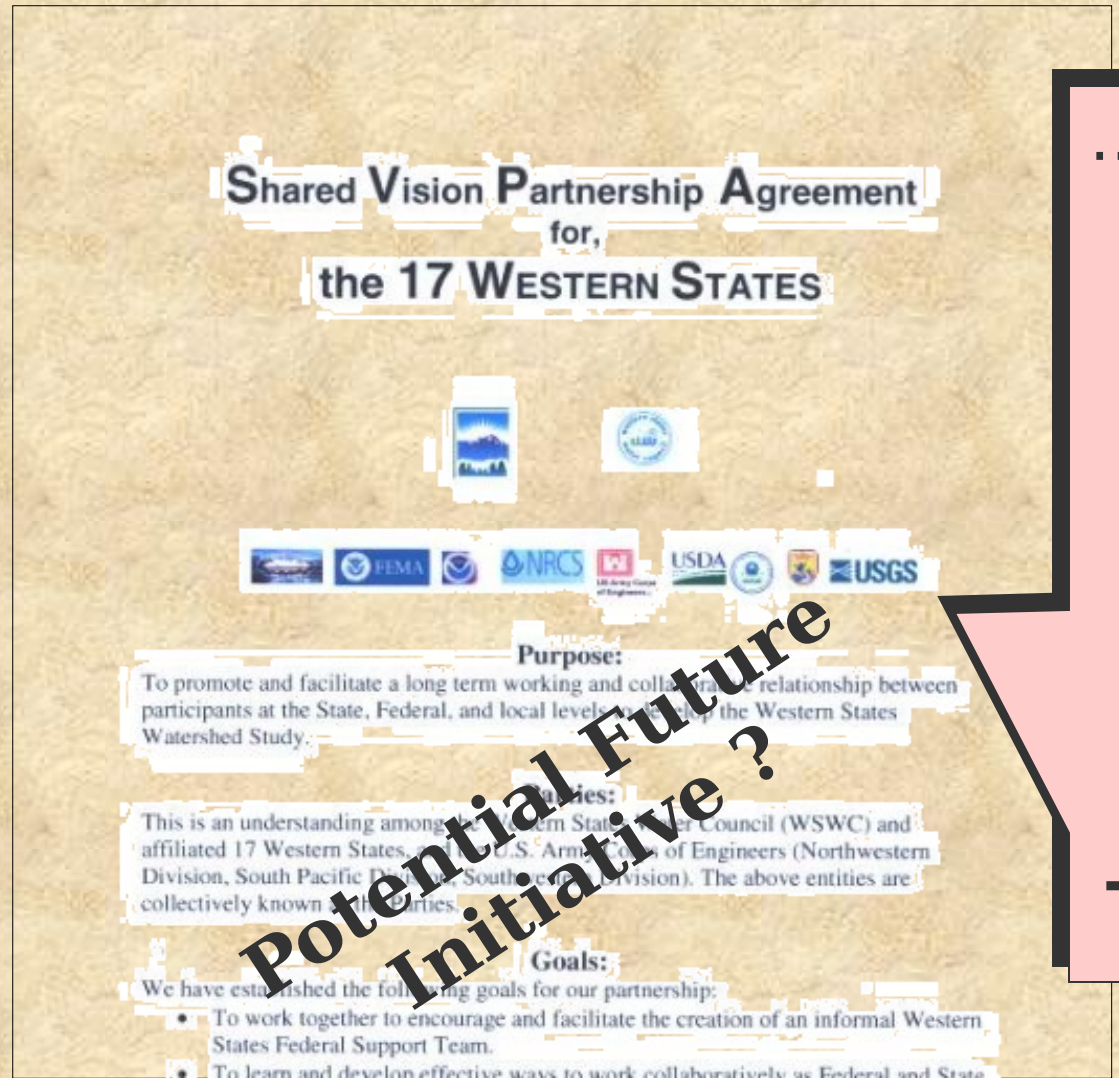
We, as representatives of our respective organizations, do hereby declare our intent to work together in support of the Western States Watershed Study principles that solutions to the complex water resources issues facing the Western States require the collaboration and stakeholders. To insure effective implementation of this agreement, we commit to fostering a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between our organizations at all levels.

Duane Smith
Chairman, Western States Water Council
Date 10/5/06

Don T. Riley
Major General, US Army
Director of Civil Works
Date 10/20/06

A key goal of the Study is to work collaboratively with the WSWC. A Shared Vision Partnership Agreement was signed in October 2006 by WSWC Chairman Duane Smith (Okla. Water Resources Board Executive Director) and Major General Don T. Riley (Corps' Director of Civil Works). This is an important first step……

Western States Watershed Study



Shared Vision Partnership Agreement
for,
the 17 Western States

Purpose:

To promote and facilitate a long term working and collaborative relationship between participants at the State, Federal, and local levels to develop the Western States Watershed Study.

Parties:

This is an understanding among the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and affiliated 17 Western States, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Northwestern Division, South Pacific Division, Southwestern Division). The above entities are collectively known as the Parties.

Goals:

We have established the following goals for our partnership:

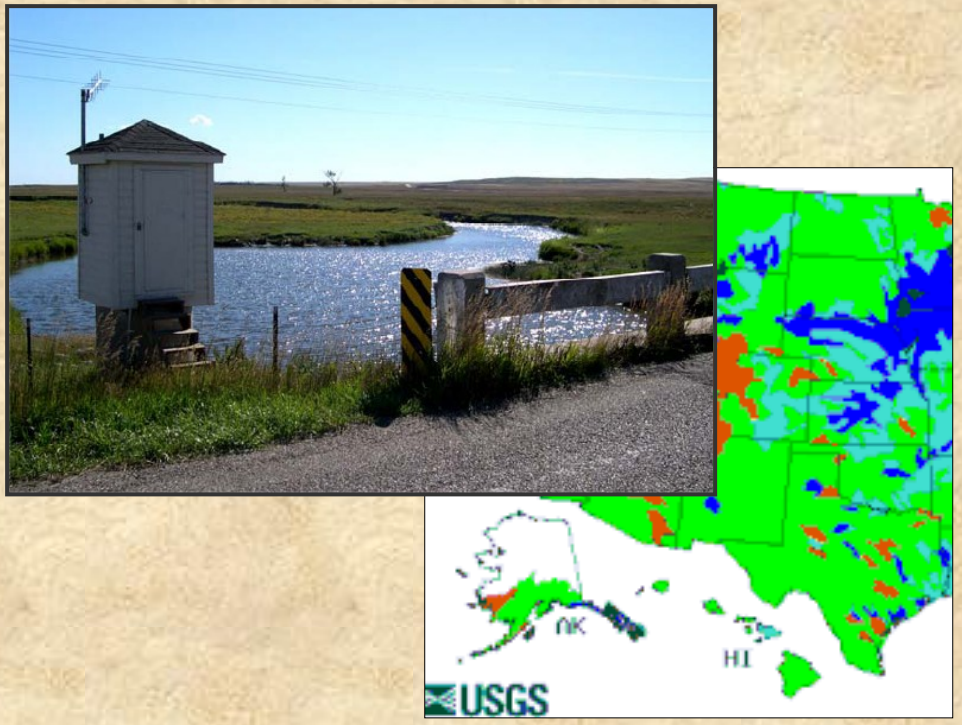
- To work together to encourage and facilitate the creation of an informal Western States Federal Support Team.
- To learn and develop effective ways to work collaboratively as Federal and State

Potential Future Initiative ?

....another key goal is to work collaboratively with other federal agencies. In the future, it may be desired to formalize the formation of a "**Western States Federal Support Team**" that would in theory mirror the WGA/WSWC.

Western States Watershed Study

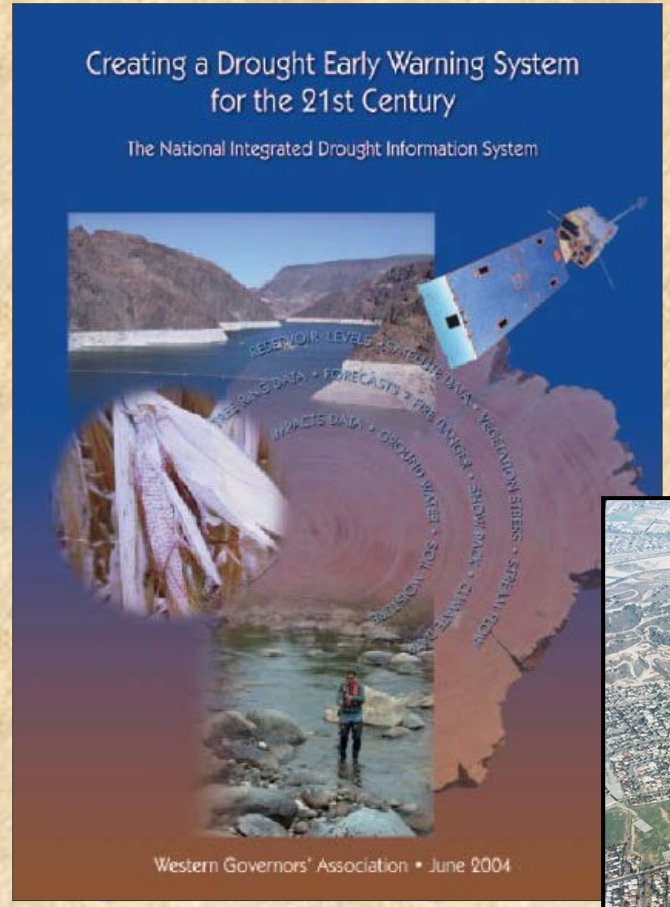
Anticipated Study Product



- Collaborative strategic plan to maintain and improve the collection of basic water data (USGS leads this activity with support from the Corps and others)

Western States Watershed Study

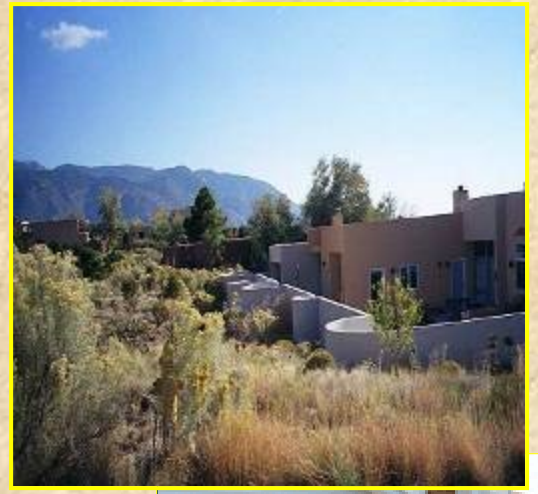
Anticipated Study Product

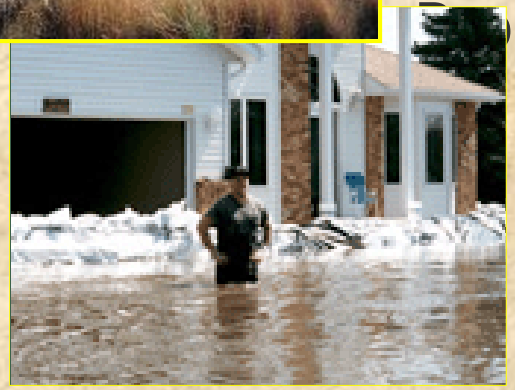

Creating a Drought Early Warning System for the 21st Century
The National Integrated Drought Information System
Western Governors' Association • June 2004

- Collaborative strategic plans for future drought planning, preparedness activities, and reservoir operations in support of NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) initiative

Western States Watershed Study

Anticipated Study Product





- Collaborative strategic plan for future potential Natural Hazards Risk activities, based on information from other on-going and planned initiatives. An example initiative is the “Silver Jackets Program”

Association of State Floodplain Managers

NFIP/CRS

FEMA

Us Army Corps Of Engineers

Nonstructural/ Flood Proofing

National Nonstructural/ Flood Proofing Committee

Western States Watershed Study

Silver Jackets Program

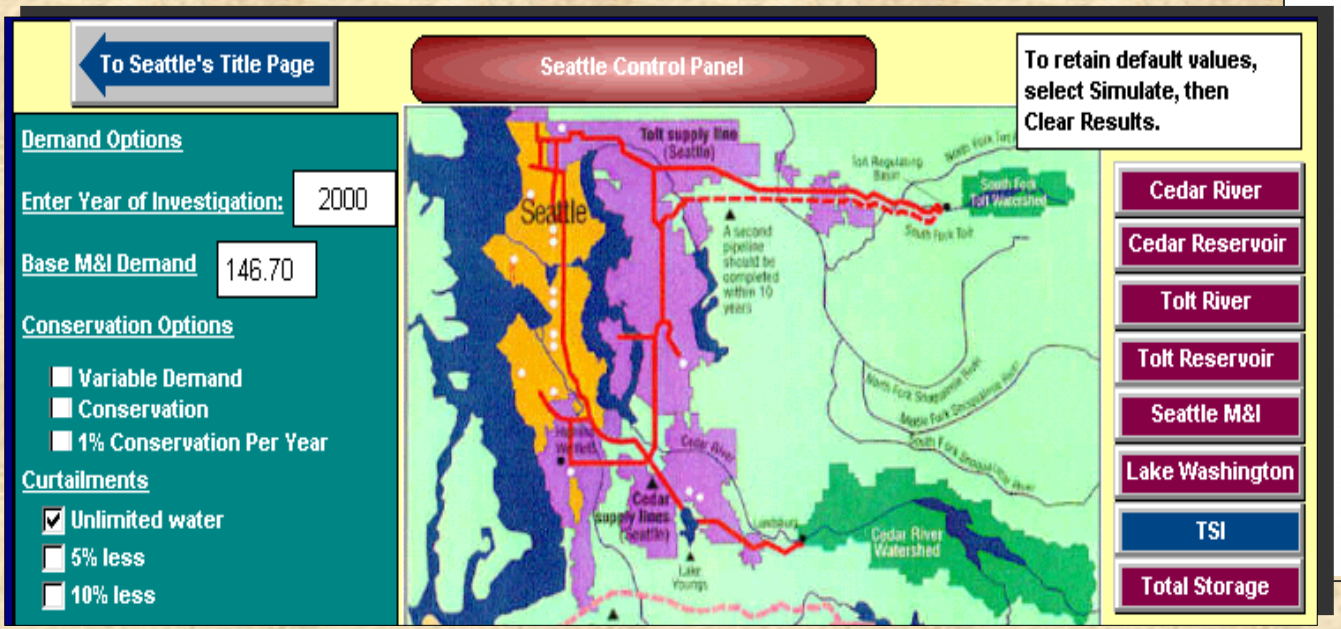
- The Silver Jackets Program provides a formal approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with natural hazards
- Initial meetings have been conducted to begin discussion of implementing the Silver Jackets concept in California
- Priorities in California include levee certification and floodplain mapping

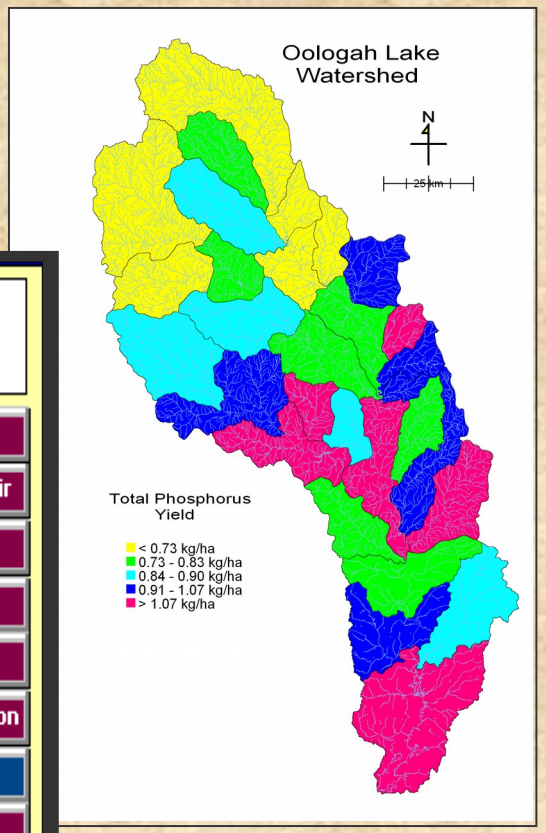
For more information on the Silver Jackets Program contact Tammy.Conforti@usace.army.mil

Western States Watershed Study

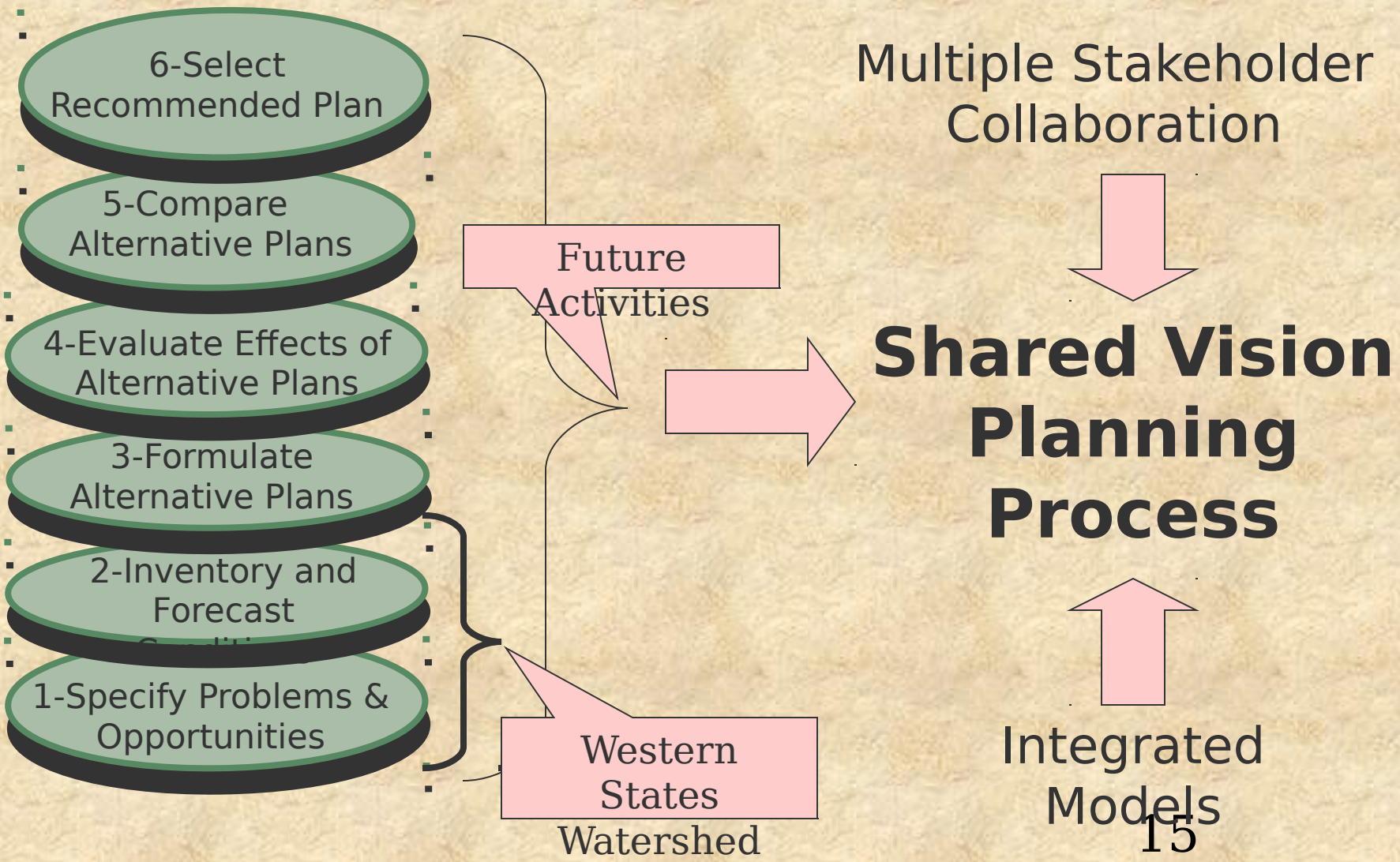
Anticipated Study Product

- Report on the utility of management tools, Decision Support Models, and collaborative planning.





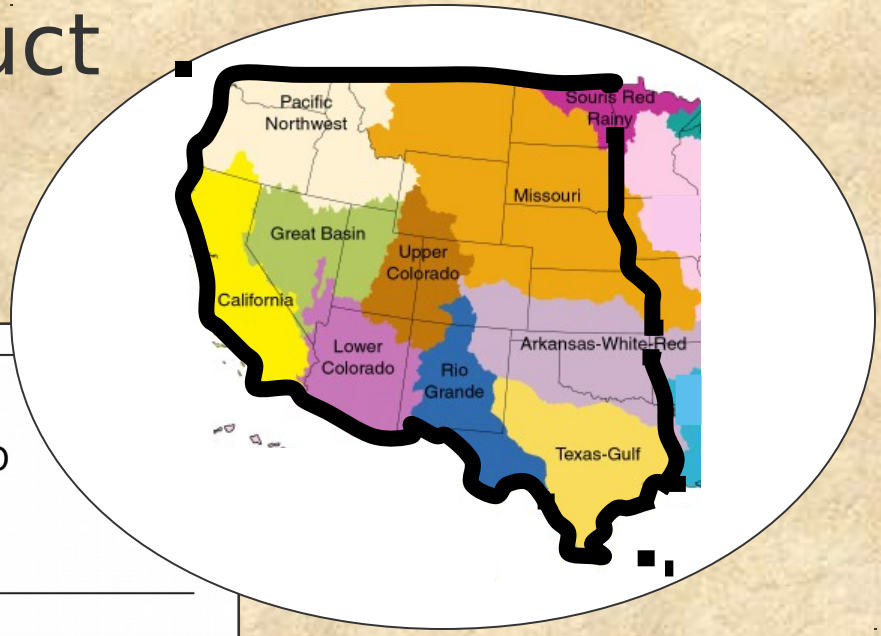
Western States Watershed Study

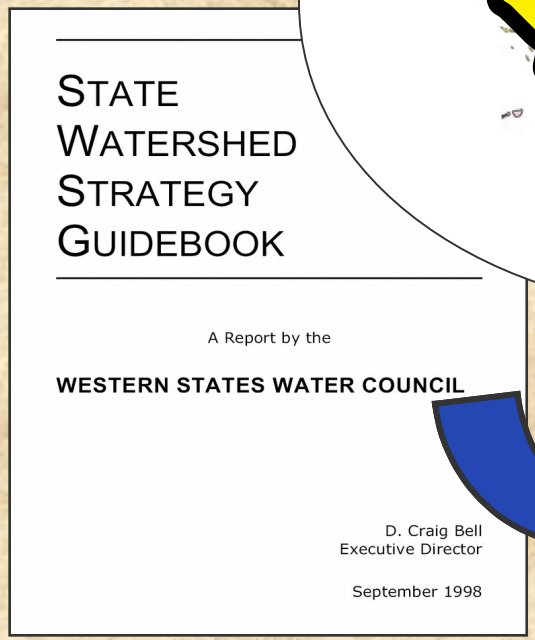


Western States Watershed Study

Anticipated Study Product

- Strategic plan to advance the collaboration and commitment of state, tribal, and federal resources to the Watershed Approach




STATE WATERSHED STRATEGY GUIDEBOOK

A Report by the

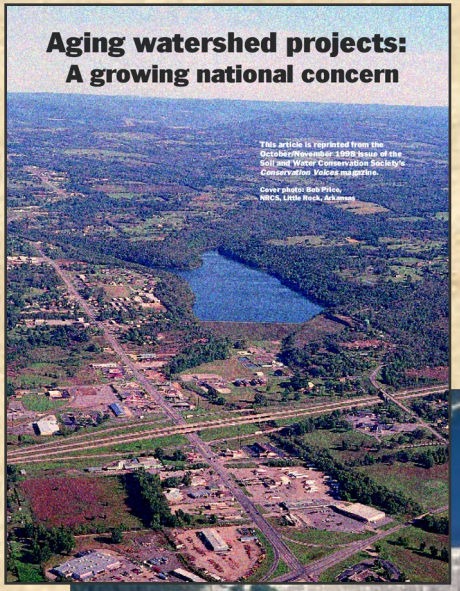
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

D. Craig Bell
Executive Director

September 1998

Western States Watershed Study

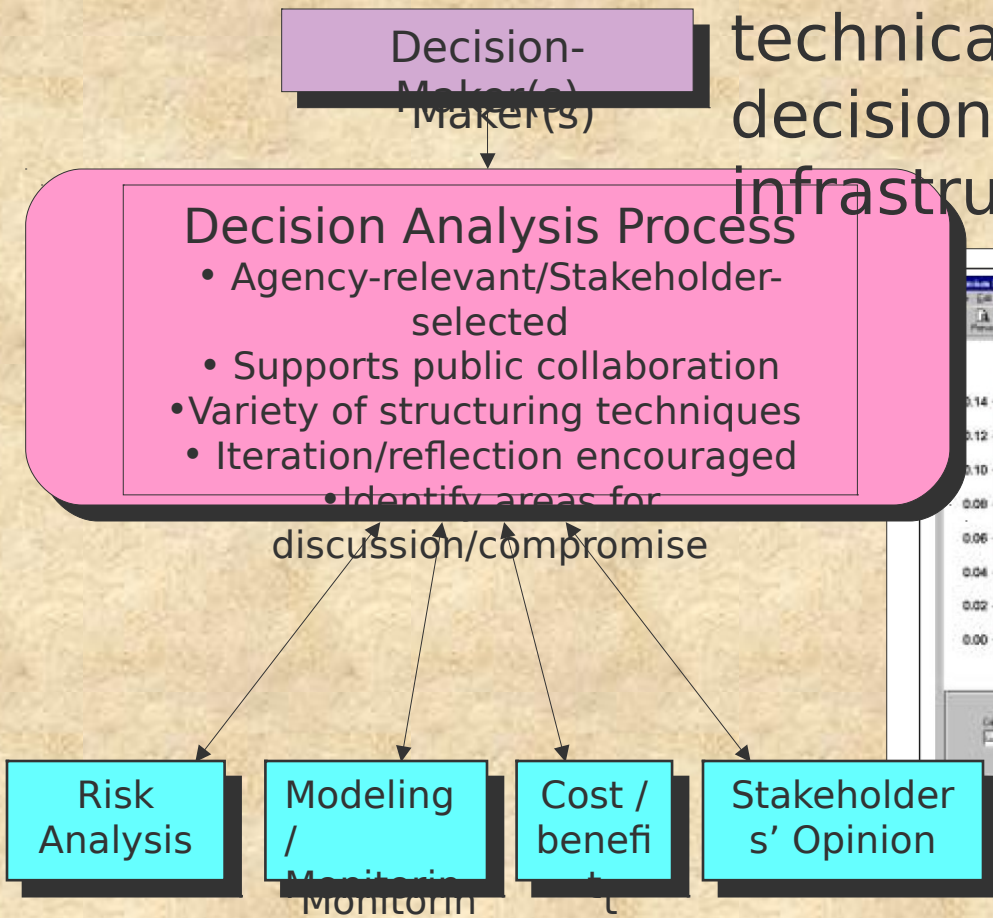
Anticipated Study Product

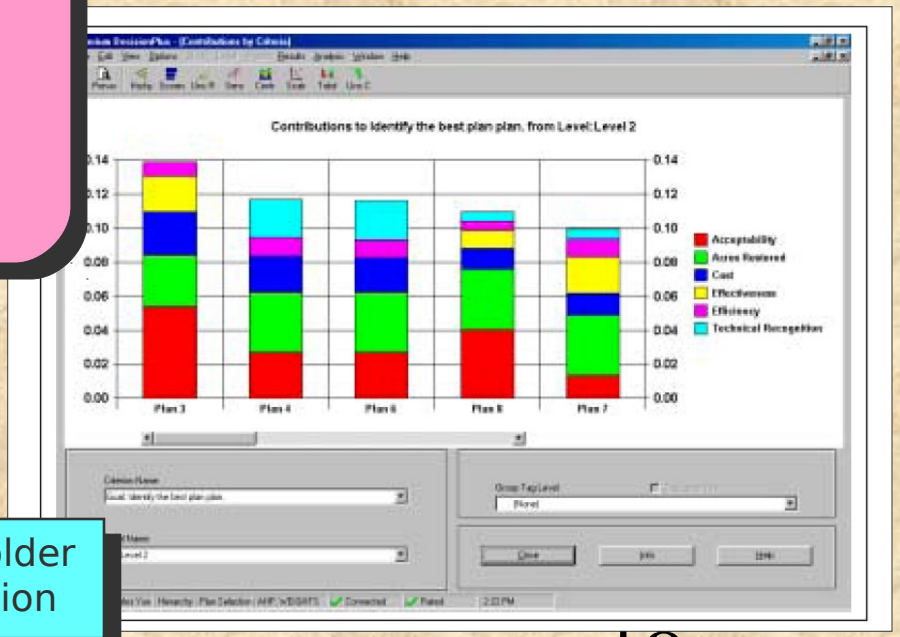

Aging watershed projects:
A growing national concern
This article is reprinted from the October/November 1999 issue of the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Conservation Voices magazine.
Cover photo: Bob Price, NRCS, Little Rock, Arkansas

- Collaborative strategic plan to improve future identification and prioritization of critical infrastructure needs

Western States Watershed Study

- Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis will be considered as a potential technical tool that could help decision makers prioritize critical infrastructure needs





Western States Watershed Study

Anticipated Study Product

- Identify any unique circumstances that may present a valid basis for exceptions to existing policies (others would lead this activity).

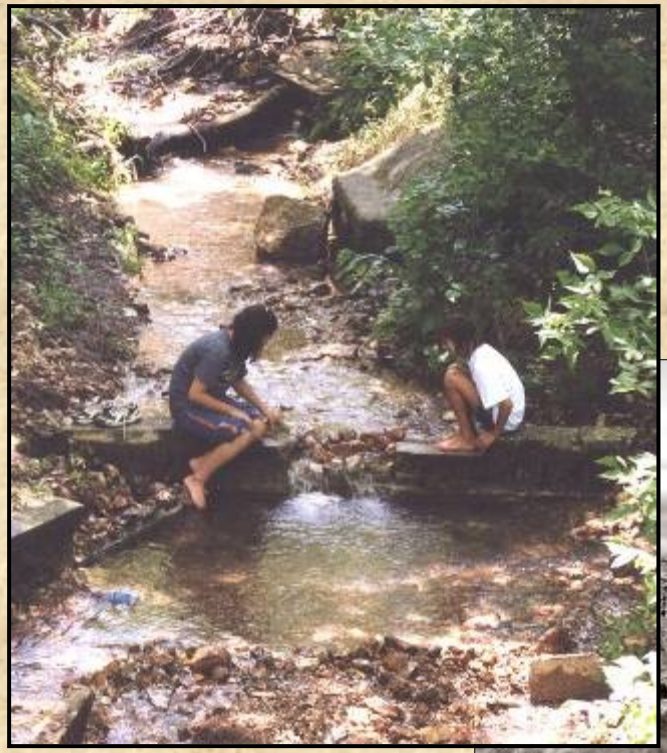
Western States Watershed Study

Other WGA/WSWC Interests Addressed by Others

- Strategic plan to define a collaborative federal agency protocol regarding the protection of species listed in the Endangered Species Act (others would conduct

Western States Watershed Study

Other WGA/WSWC Interests Addressed by Others

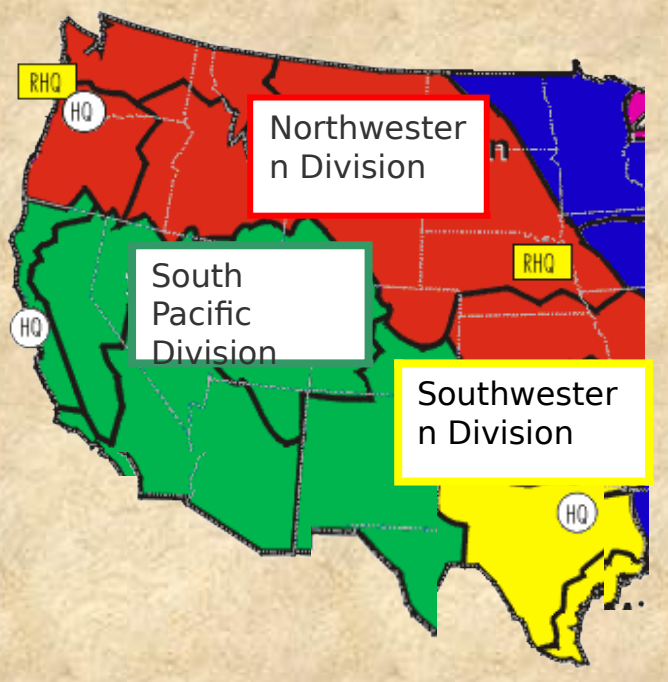


- Future resolution of Indian water right claims (others would conduct this activity)

Photograph from the State of New Mexico Website

Western States Watershed Study

Management and Technical Resources Within the Corps

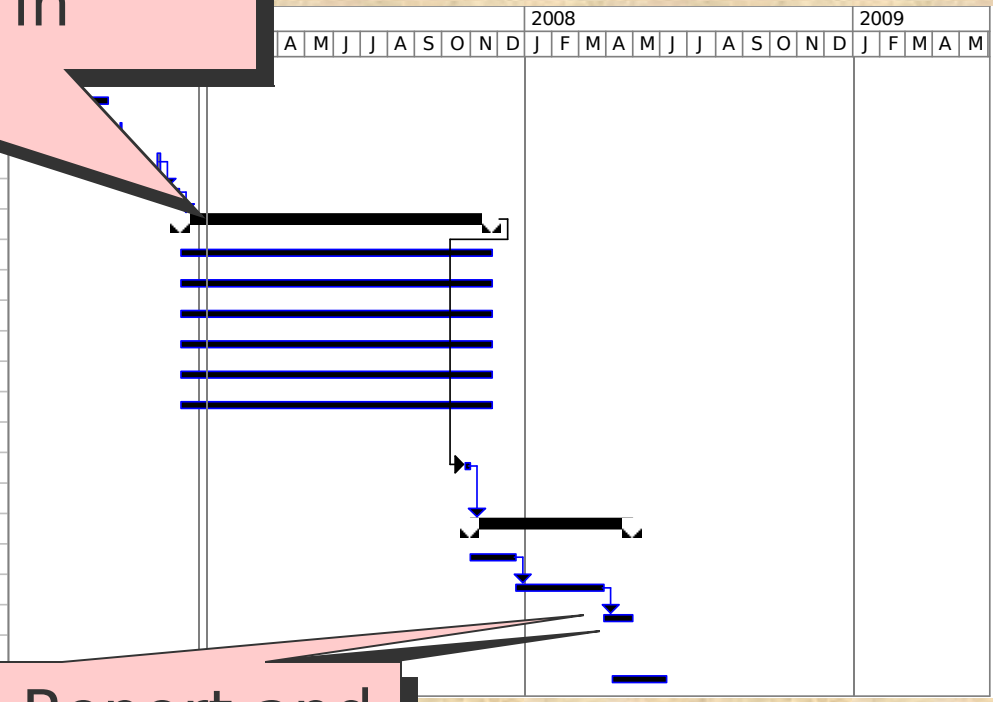


- Executive Oversight Committee
- Advisory Team
- Project Manager
- Project Delivery Team (PDT) Leads
- Corps PDT technical resources include experts from HQ., Institute of Water Resources (IWR), and the Engineering and Research Development Center (ERDC). It is desired that experts from other agencies participate on the PDT's

Western States Watershed Study

Technical activities began in December 2006 and will be essentially completed in November 2007

2	Finalize Project Management Plan/ Scope of Work/ Partnering Agreement
3	WSWC 152nd Council Meeting at Sheridan. WY
4	WSWC Symposium at Irvine, CA
5	Finalize Scopes of Work
6	**Technical Reports for the Following Special Topics:**
7	Water Data Collection
8	Drought, Natural Hazards, and Climate Change Planning and Preparedness
9	Watershed Mangement Tools and Shared Vision Planning
10	State, Trabal, and Federal Collaboration
11	Federal Infrastructure Needs
12	Programs and Policy
13	
14	9-12 Oct. 2007 WSWC Conference at Salt Lake City, UT
15	
16	**Report Preparation and Coordination**
17	Final Draft Report
18	Reviews
19	Final Report
20	
21	**Opportunity for Non-Federal Testimony**



Spring 2008 Report and completion of study

Western States Watershed Study

Thank You……
Questions?

Rolf Olsen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Liaison with the U.S. Geological Survey
J.Rolf.Olsen@usace.army.mil
703-428-6214

Gene Lilly
Western States Watershed Study
Project Manager
Douglas.E.Lilly@usace.army.mil
918-669-7124